

The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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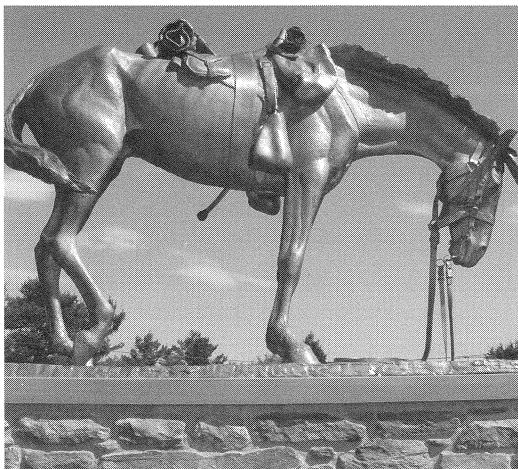
Origin of the War Horse

By Lisa Campbell, Publications Director

The sculpture of the weary Civil War horse in the courtyard of the National Sporting Library had its origin in the mind of Paul Mellon.

In 1994, he received *The Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, June 10-27, 1863* by Robert F. O'Neill Jr., for his 87th birthday. O'Neill had conducted an enormous amount of research through books and newspapers of the period, letters and diaries of the participants that vividly brings those 17 days to life. Reading of battles and bloodshed of human and horse right in this community had a profound effect on Mellon.

"Mr. Mellon wanted to do



Walta Warren photo.

something for those horses and certainly a lot of them died right here in this area," says Peter Winants, NSL director emeritus. "He stopped by the Library one day and he was telling us he had just read that book. He thought a lot of this Library and the idea for

the memorial came up in casual conversation."

While thousands of monuments have been erected to honor soldiers of the Civil War, none existed to pay tribute to equine efforts and losses. To right this omission, Mellon envisioned an extraordinary bronze sculpture to honor *all* Civil War horses and mules, both Union and Confederate. To make his vision reality, he sought out the best hands and minds to render a true form.

"Mr. Mellon's assistant contacted me to find a definitive number of horses and mules killed in the war, and they

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The Importance of the Scholarship Endowment Fund

By John H. Daniels, NSL Director

There is a small book in the National Sporting Library, published in England in 1870, *Captain Webb the Intrepid Channel Swimmer*. The author John Randall devoted the story to his hero Captain Webb who was the first person to successfully swim across the English Channel. The point that I want to make is that Captain Webb had to make his swim *all* the way.

I have the same thought when it comes to the final success of the

National Sporting Library. In order for this wonderful gem of a library to go all the way, it must finish the job of establishing a million-dollar scholarship fund. The fact is that without the scholarship fund, we will not be able to stimulate the kind of scholarly projects (that can be turned into books and eventually even films) that will put the National Sporting Library on the literary map.

Thanks to the energies and gen-

erosity of many supporters, the NSL has come a long way in the last five years. The special leadership of Chairman George Ohrstrom Jr. and Vice Chair Jacqueline Mars has been instrumental in achieving our goals so far. One of the significant mile markers in the Library's exciting growth was the dedication of the new building on Sept. 18, 1999. Since that time our superb President Kenneth Tomlinson has

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Scholarship Endowment Fund

Continued from page 1

developed an excellent, well functioning staff to operate the Library as well as attracting a loyal and generous group of friends of the Library known as the Chairman's Council.

The NSL is the home of the world's most extraordinary collections of books on turf and field sports. The Library's 12,000-volume collection is available to researchers in two expansive reading rooms with alcoves furnished with comfortable sofas and chairs. The Library is equipped with several scholar's study carrels and computer work stations.

We actually have a good start towards the development of an ongoing scholarship program. James L. Young has been working on a major research project at the Library for almost two years. He is making good progress in completing the unfinished *Story of American Foxhunting* begun by J. Blan van Urk and published by the old Derrydale Press in 1940 and 1941.

Young's entire scholarship grant has been generously funded by Jacqueline B. Mars and George L. Ohrstrom Jr. We also have some seed money towards the Scholarship Fund through an anonymous contribution of \$100,000.

Now the most important need is for an annual scholarship program funded by an endowment that must total one million dollars to support the kind of research projects worthy of such a great facility. Many important libraries in America and abroad have intern and scholarship programs. At Yale and Harvard there is a flow of visiting scholars who are studying rare books in support of their writing projects.

The entire procedure of attracting scholars to compete for sought-after scholarships has been established

for a long time. The funding, research, writing and ultimate publishing of books and articles are the life-blood of every one of these institutions. If the National Sporting Library is to ultimately succeed it needs to fund and develop its own special scholarship program.

There is an enormous quantity of worthwhile research projects awaiting scholars at the NSL. The biographers will find their resource materials at the Library as will the historians, novelists, art appreciators and lecturers. Every scholar has his or her agenda of interests, and the vast resources of original manuscripts, ancient and modern books on equestrian and field sports subject matter reposing in the Library await their arrival.

Just to give an example of how it works, this is what I experienced in the summer of 1987 when I was still passionately collecting sporting books. I had acquired one of three existing copies of a rare book privately printed by General Henry Eugene Davies in 1872. *Ten Days on the Plains* is about a buffalo hunting expedition hosted by General Philip Sheridan in 1871, five years before General Custer's demise. There were 15 photographs mounted in the book of General Sheridan and his guests who included Buffalo Bill Cody, the Jerome brothers and James Gordon Bennett Jr. I spent most of that summer in the Minneapolis Public Library doing research on Phil Sheridan and his guests. Later that year, my article "The Millionaires Hunt" was published in *Sporting Classics* magazine.

Since that time, I have thought about many different subjects that an interested researcher could explore in the Library's rare sporting book collection. The ultimate success of many best-selling sporting books has occurred because of the synergy and chemistry that oper-

ates between an author and illustrator. *Black Beauty* has been illustrated by many talented artists including Paul Brown and Cecil Aldin. The talented English artist John Leech helped to popularize the sporting novels of Robert Smith Surtees. The original prototype of what John Jorrocks looked like was created by John Leech. That short, stubby, pot-bellied grocer from London with his snub nose and sideburns lives on forever thanks to Leech.

Here in the National Sporting Library, the scholar will find a wealth of material on the manners, mores and customs of past centuries on the practices of animal husbandry in earlier times, on the growth of veterinary knowledge or the evolutions and devolutions of the "blood sports." He has a window into the age-old interdependence and partnership between man and beast, fish and fowl.

Here scholars will find examples of evolving methods of printing, binding, color reproduction and the making of papers. Along with exquisitely beautiful artwork, there are glimpses to be had of the sociological roles of patronage, class, and agriculture as seen from the croft to the vast estate, and detailed views of dress in different countries in different periods of history. The colorful field of transportation is a huge subject in itself.

In the long run the National Sporting Library will have to ask generous friends to swim the final mile to reach the other shore. I am confident that this superb sporting library will eventually be fully funded so that it can accomplish its mission.

"Foxhunting forever! He shouted with fire. The very last words of the Jolly Old Squire."

—Chorus of an anonymous hunting song.

War Horse

Continued from page 1

wanted to make the equipment as accurate as possible," says O'Neill, a writer and recently retired policeman who was introduced to the three battlefields by Leesburg Civil War historian John Devine. "She wanted to know not just about the leather gear, but what soldiers were allowed to carry."

The Library sent to Mellon numerous photocopies of saddles, bridles and other cavalry equipment from books in the NSL's collection. And they sent photocopies of horses from equestrian art books, including one by Frederick Remington titled "The American Tommy Atkins in a Montana Snowstorm."

Mellon turned his idea over to sculptor Tessa Pullan of Rutland, England. In 1993, she had produced a three-quarter life-size bronze of Sea Hero, Mellon's 1993 Kentucky Derby winner. This sculpture still stands at Mellon's Rokeby Farm.

An outstanding contemporary sculptor, Pullan was apprenticed to artist John Skeaping, R.A. (1901-1980) for three years in the early 1970s. Sally Mitchell writes of Skeaping in *The Dictionary of British Sporting Artists* (1985): "One of the leading artists of the 20th century, he produced powerful bronzes and wood sculptures."

Mellon was well acquainted with Skeaping who had produced commissioned works for him. "John Skeaping once told Mr. Mellon that Tessa was better than he ever hoped to be," recalls a Mellon associate. When Skeaping died, all of the work he had yet to complete went to Pullan.

Pullan's work is publicly displayed in the collections of London's National Portrait Gallery, the National Horse Museum in Newmarket and at the Yale Center for British Sporting Art in Connecticut.

To help Pullan see his vision of the Civil War horse, Mellon consulted many sources to ensure that the overall design was absolutely authentic. "He supplied the photographs which were of a horse used for battle reenactments. He also sent a couple of photocopies of prints or paintings to give me an idea of what he was after. One was a horse in a snow storm, which is the one I based the sculpture on," says Pullan.

Mellon's assistant Beverly Carter says, "Mr. Mellon wanted the horse's stance to look exhausted, like he had no food. You'll notice there's no sword. The scabbard is empty to show the horse had lost its rider in a cavalry battle. And he's standing with his back hoof bent, because Mr. Mellon said horses stand that way when they are tired."

Carter set an appointment with Steve Taylor, a Civil War reenactor with the 4th Virginia Cavalry. She relates the day she and Mellon traveled to Taylor's farm in Fauquier County: "Steve had his horse saddled and we took over 200 photographs from every angle possible."

"I was very excited about it," says Taylor. "I contacted several friends and some equipment was loaned to me for the project. The hardest part to figure out was how to make the horse look Union or Confederate. The difference is that Northern and Southern soldiers used Federal gear, but generally Northern soldiers used all Northern gear. The horse as outfitted came as close as we could get for a horse that may have been outfitted as Northern or Southern. The saddle for example is a McClellan, used by Northern soldiers but captured or copied and used by Southern soldiers. All gear used for the project is original from the Civil War period."

From the "horse in a snow storm" and photos of Taylor's horse, Pullan produced a maquette, a small model of the intended work,

which was cast in bronze and shown to a specialist in Civil War accoutrements who approved it. "Mr. Mellon was constantly in touch with comments and ideas about how the sculpture should proceed. He felt that my horse looked too well fed and clean. I contacted the R.S.P.C.A. and they provided me with cruelty photographs which were horrendous, but they helped give the effect of a horse whose rider was slain and was dying of exhaustion after a long battle," she says.

After spending two months to produce the maquette, Pullan then worked for six months to complete the three-quarter-size model. Once the final bronze was cast, a dark patina was applied to protect the finish.

"The Civil War horse at the Library was the first to be cast in bronze," says Pullan. "It was this cast that was shown at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition."

Following the show, the horse was shipped directly to Mellon's home in Upperville.

Andrew Baxter, of Bronze et al Fine Art Conservation in Richmond, first met Mellon when he was hired to repatinate the sculpture of Sea Hero by Pullan. And he was asked to return to Rokeby to repatinate the Civil War horse because the original finish had deteriorated.

"Mr. Mellon's first idea for the patina was a dark bay like Sea Hero," says Baxter.

He had just finished removing the old patina with a technique similar to sand blasting using glass beads when Mellon drove up for a look. The horse stood in the garden in his bare golden bronze skin, "Mr. Mellon declared, 'That's the finish I want!'" recalls Baxter.

For the inscription on the base, Mellon's staff contacted Civil War

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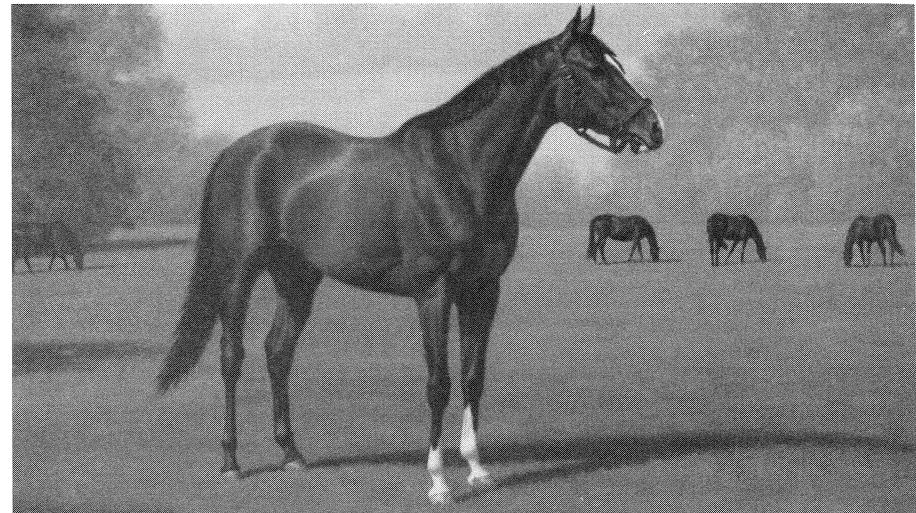
Hardin Family Gives Thoroughbred Books

Mrs. Mark (Kitty) Hardin of Charlottesville has donated her late husband's extensive collection of Thoroughbred breeding and racing books to the National Sporting Library.

The bulk of the collection had been amassed by Mark Hardin's father and stepmother, Taylor and Katherine Hardin, during their years on Newstead Farm, the renowned Thoroughbred breeding operation near Upperville.

For nearly five decades Newstead had been the home of some of the world's best broodmares who produced a host of extraordinary runners. Indeed, the 1985 Fasig-Tipton Newstead dispersal was the most successful sale of its kind in the 20th century. The sale of broodmares, weanlings, yearlings and stallion shares grossed \$46.9 million—a record which stands today.

A mint condition book that was the sales catalog for the dispersal was among the books donated by



Richard Stone Reeves painting of sales-topper Miss Oceana from the cover of *Complete Dispersal Newstead Farm Trust* (1985).

Mrs. Hardin. The book contains an article, "The Legend of Newstead" by Edward L. Bowen, then editor of *The Blood-Horse*.

"The Hardin collection is important to the National Sporting Library because it contains excellent research material and so many important serials," says Carlos S. E.

Moore, chairman of the Library's Thoroughbred advisory committee.

Mrs. Hardin's donation consists of over 90 volumes of Thoroughbred racing and breeding books and serials. The donation includes extensive volumes of *The Thoroughbred Record*, *The American Racing Manual* and *The Bloodstock Breeder's Review*.

War Horse

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historian Nick Nichols. "I have been collecting primary data on the cavalry of the Civil War for over 30 years," says Nichols. "I have amassed data relating to equine mortality from dozens and dozens of primary sources, including regimental returns, contemporary correspondence (official and unofficial) and reports, purchasing statistics, data gathered from various equine infirmaries operated by both the Federal and Confederate authorities and more. It is my considered opinion that a reasonable estimate of the equine mortality

rate, not including wounded equines, during the Civil War fall between 1,350,000 and 1,500,000. I'm glad that some visitors find this astronomical number unsettling; it certainly should be."

Dwight Young, of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, combed through the Library of Congress to gather information to confirm the statistic.

With the Library's Civil War horse completed in 1997, the bronze waited in the Mellon garden at Rokeby until the new building was completed for the NSL. In the meantime, Mellon commissioned a second copy for the U.S. Cavalry Museum at Ft. Riley, Kansas. That horse carries the dark patina.

"The horse at Ft. Riley was the second copy from the same mold as the one for the Library," says Pullan.

Mellon also wanted a third to be placed at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond. When he visited the site, "He decided that the horse was too small for the outside of the Historical Society," says Pullan. A company in England enlarged the mold to full size for the third and so far final bronze.

"The Civil War horse has become the most visited landmark in this area," says NSL President Kenneth Tomlinson. "What a legacy to the spirit of Paul Mellon and the horses he chose to honor."

Cultural Evenings at the NSL

In February, the organizing committee for "All the Queen's Horses" presented to the Chairman's Council the planned celebration of Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. Col. Sir Piers Bengough, chairman of the committee, and Nigel Rushman, a director, gave a Power Point presentation of images of the rehearsal and the equestrian theme of the event held on May 15-19 at England's Royal Windsor Horse Show.

In March, Stephen Budiansky, author of *The Nature of Horses: Exploring Equine Evolution, Intelligence and Behavior* and Dr. Sue McDonnell, founder of the horse behavior program at New Bolton Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, detailed their theories of



Courtesy "All The Queen's Horses"

equine behavior, followed by a lively question-and-answer session. Chairman's Council member George F. (Gerry) Ohrstrom of New York sponsored the event.

British hunting activist Robin Page returned to the Library to present an update on "The State of Foxhunting in England." Page is the

author of *The Hunting Gene* and a leader in the Countryside Alliance. He stressed the need for activism to preserve hunting in England and America. The next march through London, comprised of foxhunters and other rural activists, is scheduled for September 22.

The horse behavior panel discussion and Robin Page's lecture were recorded on audiocassette for use by Library members.

Polo Lecture

On September 12, Phillip Karber, who is working on a history of polo, will spearhead an evening of discussion on the world of polo at the Library.

Illustrations Donated from *Great Horses of the United States Equestrian Team*

Chairman's Council member Paul Davies of Lafayette, California, has donated all 44 of Sam Savitt's original illustrations for Bill Steinkraus's book *Great Horses of the United States Equestrian Team* (New York: Dodd, Mead & Company, 1977) to the NSL.



Bill Steinkraus on Snowbound.

In 1977, Steinkraus, a former U.S. Equestrian Team member, collaborated with celebrated equestrian artist Sam Savitt (1917-2000) to write *Great Horses of the United States Equestrian Team*.

Savitt grew up in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, and was fascinated with horses from childhood. He studied art at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., graduating in 1941. After serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army during World War II, he attended the Art Students League in Manhattan in 1950 and 1951.

In 1956, Savitt was named the official artist for the U.S. Equestrian Team, a post he held for several years. He wrote and illustrated 15 books of his own and illustrated

over 150 books for other authors. One of his most popular is *Draw Horses with Sam Savitt*, published in 1981.

Great Horses is a wonderful overview of the incredible horses and their riders who have made the U.S. a powerful force at the Olympics and other world competitions. Steinkraus reviews each horse's career and then rounds out each story with an interview with the rider who took the horse to the top of its game. A Connecticut native, Steinkraus has been an NSL director since 1992 and has written or edited a number of books on equestrian sports including most recently *Reflections on Riding and Jumping* (1997).



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Gift of Almanacs with Fore-Edge Paintings

Mr. and Mrs. Phillip S. Thomas, of Middleburg, Va., have donated a 15-volume set of early 19th-century almanacs, *The Gentleman's Diary, or the Mathematical Repository* (London: The Company of Stationers, 1813-1827).

Each volume is decorated with a different fore-edge painting. When the pages of the books are fanned

open, a watercolor sporting scene appears beneath the gilt on the long edge of the book.

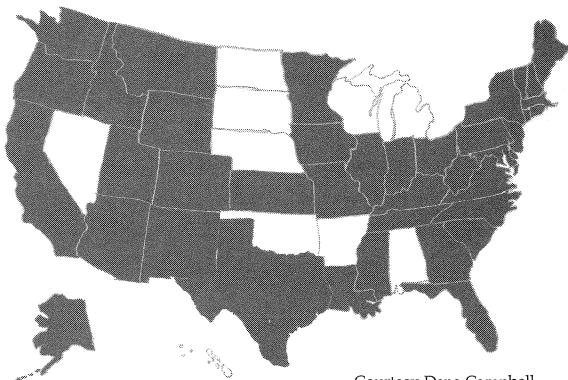
The Thomas's almanacs depict a variety of country sports including foxhunting, angling, shooting, coursing, croquet and four-in-hand coaching. The books are bound in red morocco with gilt lettering and sporting emblems on the spine.

Sporting Diversity

Since we opened the doors of the new National Sporting Library in the fall of 1999, visitors from 40 states, the District of Columbia and 21 countries have toured the facility.

The map shows the origins of American visitors. Others have come from Argentina, Australia, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Chile, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Ukraine, Uruguay and Wales.

The highest ranking sportsman



Courtesy Dena Campbell.

to visit the Library was Jorge Batlle Ibanez, President of Uruguay. He compared the thrill of browsing through the volumes in the rare book room to visiting President Bush in the Oval Office.

2002 DUPLICATE BOOK SALE

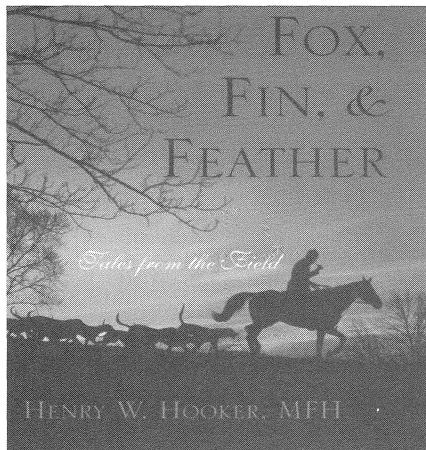
In September, watch the mail for your copy of the NSL's 2002 *Duplicate Book Sale Catalog*. This year's offering includes such rare book classics as *Oriental Field Sports* (1807), by Capt. Thomas Williamson, illustrated by Samuel Howett; *The Wiles of the Fox* (1932), by Lionel Edwards; *History in Brief of "Leopard" and "Linden," General Grant's Arabian Stallions* (1885), by Randolph Huntington; *Slipper's ABC of Fox Hunting* (1903), by Edith Somerville; *An English XIX Century Sportsman, Bibliopole and Binder of Angling Books* (1906), by William Loring Andrews.

Fox, Fin, and Feather: Tales from the Field

Henry W. Hooker, MFH. The Derrydale Press, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, Md. 20706. 2002. 302 pp. Illus. Notes. Index. \$75.

Henry Hooker, the long-time master of Hillsboro Hounds in Tennessee, states in his introduction: "This is a book about fun in field sports. It celebrates the characters and cultures of foxhunting, steeplechasing, fishing and shooting. It celebrates life." This is an accurate mission statement.

Colorful anecdotes accompany Hooker's sporting trips far and wide during the past 50 years. We are taken with him for foxhunting with Benjamin Hardaway III in Georgia, Harry Rhett in Alabama and Mrs. A. C. Randolph in Virginia. Along the way, the author invariably shows real creativity in describing the thrill of the chase. His account of a joint meet between the Hillsboro Hounds and Rhett's Mooreland Hunt in the latter's territory is typical. "For two hours, coverts were blank. Suddenly, patience was rewarded. They [the hounds] found for which they hunted through the long morning. It was sporadic, a spotty, patchy, tentative thing. They trailed it, worked it, only to lose. Then they tried back. They harked Felix's



cheer [Felix Peach, huntsman of Hillsboro] and picked it up again with a pluck. So out the ridge they came picking and plucking. A light rain had begun to fall...Here and there, a bass joined the flutes. Then suddenly the orchestra was done tuning up and the overture began...Hounds were charging now...Both packs were singing their unspent joy."

Hooker's description of an Osage Indian at a field trial in Mississippi is priceless. It seems that a lady following the hunt was riding sidesaddle. That morning hounds were running and a buddy of the chief called out, "Come on, they're going to cross down by the creek." "Go ahead," the chief shouted back, "I'm going to see that one-legged lady take a jump if I have to wait here

all day."

Parts of Hooker's book are amusing or exciting, while others are highly informative, such as Hooker's in-depth analysis of scenting conditions. Some of his conclusions are from personal experiences in the field, and he also quotes leading authors on the subject such as Peter Beckford, Isaac Bell, Thomas Smith, Joseph B. Thomas, H. M. R. Budgett and H. B. C. Pollard.

Hooker's fishing adventures include trips to Mexico, where wife Alice, on their honeymoon, brought in a huge sailfish, Alaska for a monstrous halibut and Quebec for salmon. Bird shooting holidays were spent at shooting plantations in Georgia and Mississippi, and he enjoyed trips to Scotland for grouse shooting and Spain for red-legged partridge.

In another part of the chapter, Hooker writes: "I have always thought that the very most fun part of foxhunting is encouraging children to enjoy their hunting experiences. This has caused me to invite many of the young entry to ride with me."

Well done, Henry Hooker. The National Sporting Library is proud to add *Fox, Fin, and Feather* to its collection.

—Peter Winants

Zakroff Joins Board

Anna Wells Zakroff of Boulder, Colorado, has been elected to the board of directors of the National Sporting Library.

Zakroff first visited the Library when it was in Vine Hill and was impressed with the collection. "Where else can you go to one

place and find so much history of sport?" she says. "That's why I latched on to the Library and want to make a contribution to it."

Zakroff is a geologist and is president of St. Anselm Exploration Company of Colorado, in partnership with her husband Michael

Zakroff. Originally from Florida, she is a horsewoman and competed in combined training events. After she settled in Colorado with its colder climate, she and her daughter Norma turned to riding show hunters on the AHSA circuit on the East Coast.

The Chairman's Council

These friends of the National Sporting Library have taken a leadership role in their support of the Library by joining the Chairman's Council:

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